

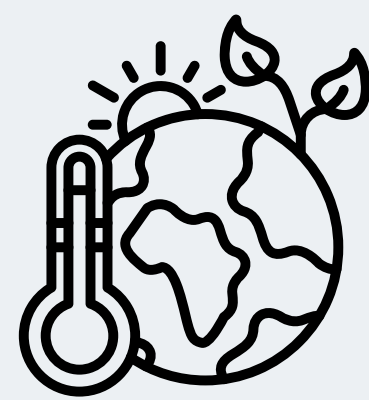
Care as Climate Infrastructure: Strengthening Resilience for Women-Led MSMEs

Why care is the missing link in economic and climate adaptation

The Expanding Care Burden

Climate change is not just an environmental crisis. It is a social and economic threat that directly intensifies unpaid care demands while simultaneously weakening supporting community systems.

The "Climate Time Tax"



Climate-driven resource scarcity and health shocks consume women's unpaid time and labour.

This directly leaves women entrepreneurs with less time, mobility, and capital to invest in business growth or climate adaptation.

The Reality on the Ground

- 90%** of surveyed care economy enterprises report that climate change actively impacts their day-to-day operations.
- 64%** of care enterprises assess themselves as only slightly prepared or completely unprepared to handle ongoing climate shocks.
- 60%** of home-based workers in South Asia saw their unpaid care workload increase by more than two hours per day due to climate stress.
- 26x** On average, care sector jobs produce 26 times fewer greenhouse gas emissions than traditional manufacturing jobs, making care a cornerstone of a green, just transition.

Adaptation in Action

AgeWatch Africa

Introduces flexible job-sharing and shortened shift structures to protect female caregivers in Kenya from severe climate burnout.

Komodo Water

Implements solar-powered water filtration alongside highly precise, data-driven ocean wave tracking to navigate storm cycles in Indonesia safely.

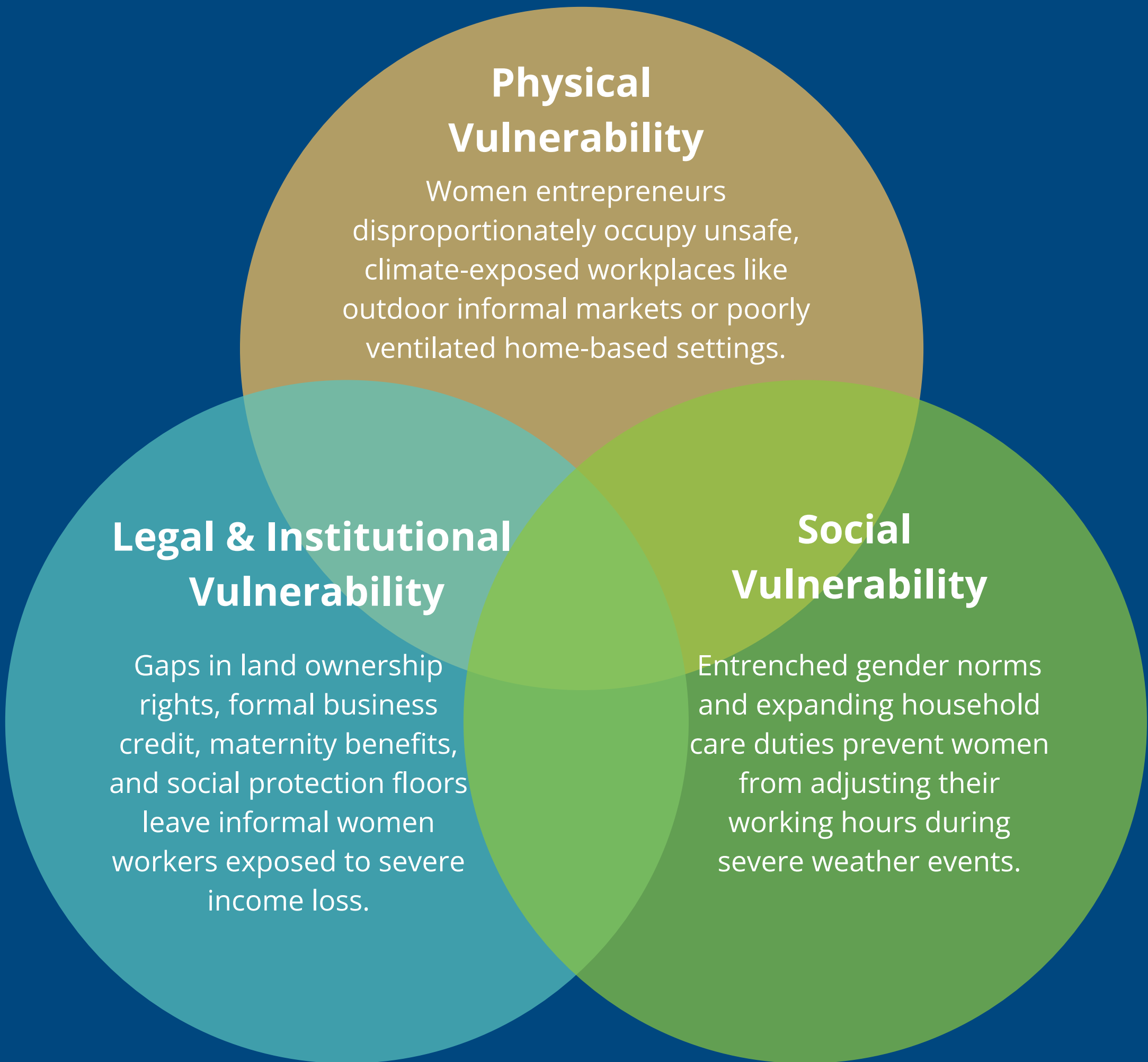
Kiidu

Localises urban caregiver placement in Bangkok to target nearby neighbourhoods, successfully reducing worker transit times and heat exposure.

Solar Sister

Absorbs supply chain shocks for last-mile women entrepreneurs in Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania by maintaining a network of four to five cookstove and solar vendors per country.

Overlapping Vulnerabilities for Women-Led MSMEs



Reframing Care

Donors



Expand flexible, long-term grant financing and treat investments in care services (childcare, clean water, clean energy) as vital climate adaptation infrastructure.

Governments



Formally integrate care into national climate strategies and expand shock-responsive social protection floors to cover informal and self-employed women.

Investors



Look past basic gender-diverse ownership metrics to actively track care, climate, and gender outcomes across underwriting portfolios.